

2010 Tremayne Hall Management Committee AGM

Chairman's report

This, the third year since the re-opening of the Tremayne Hall in October 2007, has been a time of consolidation and development. There have been a number of highs and lows as in any organisation, but over all we should be pleased with progress. Bookings are increasing steadily and the number of receptions, parties for all ages and other big social events reflects public appreciation of our beautiful hall.

A serious problem caused by damp in the wall near the stage has been dealt with successfully following a major investigation of all related areas. Treatment and additional ventilation means that we can now be confident that the problem is under control. This has inevitably resulted in the need to replace some floor boards and to redecorate the panelling. The work was left until the Easter holidays in order to minimise the disruption to bookings. It was also necessary to manage without heating the hall for two weeks and the warmer weather made this just possible.

Maintaining high standards is always a top priority and we are becoming aware that it will soon be necessary to implement further repairs and redecoration. The centre is receiving heavy use and there are signs of wear in several areas. M.I.F.S. (the maintenance and improvements fund) continues to play an important role in this connection and we hope to increase the number of supporters. It is important that we begin a programme of work soon in order to continue to keep and attract customers.

The philosophy of 'something for everyone' is constantly reviewed and we aim to have a wide range of classes and activities to cater for almost every interest. Our lovely hall floor means that dancing remains hugely popular, along with other regulars who appreciate it, such as keep fit and yoga. The lunch club attracts 40 to 50 over 60s every Tuesday and for many elderly people it is the highlight of their week, most of whom are able to walk to the centre. Eight teams of volunteers continue to work on a rota throughout most of the year. Bingo too has its keen followers who meet regularly on Friday evenings. We are very grateful to them for their continued support and considerable financial help resulting from these sessions.

Then there are films, theatre groups, concerts, craft fairs and exhibitions, all providing a variety of entertainment as well as bringing much-needed funds towards the running of the centre. Inevitably there have been disappointments and it is a pity that Spanish classes did not succeed. Writing workshops did not last very long, nor the aromatherapy massage treatments - a victim of the recession perhaps! Computer classes and workshops are struggling to survive but we very much hope that additional publicity will help.

There have been some unexpected successes. Colour therapy workshops have developed an enthusiastic following and a book group that started recently is proving to be extremely popular. If you look in the Mylor Magazine you will see regular book reviews written by those involved. Art classes are always well-subscribed and it has been good to see some work from the students in our regular displays in the entrance hall. Penryn Video Editing Club meets here regularly and they have had some ambitious projects including 'green screen' work recently. There is also the drop in computer help sessions on Thursday afternoons which can give informal help where needed. All these activities are detailed on the website which continues to play a useful role in publicity and promotion.

The history group is a valuable and integral part of the community centre. The archive area is open every Thursday and the public is invited to visit, to bring items to store or view the growing collection of historic material. In addition the group continues to hold meetings, arrange lectures, organise events, set out displays and record material that has been donated.

We are always searching for new ideas to interest people, keeping in mind current trends and fashions. A revamped WI is having a revival in some parts of the country and it would be great if it started up again in Mylor. There are a number of other possible activities in the pipeline such as a beginner's group learning to use digital and video cameras. We need to increase the use of the Pope room and perhaps the yard for some outdoor activities in the coming year. Please let us know any ideas that you think might be worth trying.

As a community building in a central position we aim to form links with other organisations in the village, to encourage the use of the centre for a variety of meetings and to promote good relations. It is hoped that combined events will help to benefit the community in general. For instance a joint Barn Dance is being considered.

This whole community project is a 'work in progress'. It is clear that the restoration of the Tremayne Hall was just the beginning and it will be up to a succession of volunteers in the future to maintain the standards and to generate interest and enthusiasm by being creative and proactive. It may be a well-worn cliché, but the organisation is like a huge machine which will only work if a constant flow of volunteers is prepared to take on a small role and become a 'cog' in that machine.

This brings me to the current hard-working teams of volunteers who are involved in the successful running of the centre. **They all deserve a huge thank you!** It is impossible to name everyone but I would just like to give special mention to my vice chairman, Mike Marshman, whose patience and steadfast support are always greatly appreciated.

The buzz words of 'community' and 'volunteering' are often in the news these days, encouraging us all to get involved – not only to help others, but to experience the benefits ourselves, both physical and mental, from taking part. Let's try to involve as many new people as we can so it can be good news for everyone!

Val Jeans-Jakobsson
Chairman